

# ***LES Modifications to Help Reduce Identity Theft***

Leave and Earnings Statements (LES) for all service members and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees will soon have more protection against identity theft.

Over the next several weeks, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will drop the first five digits of a person's social security number from all hard copy pay statements and checks to guard against identity theft.

This change is to be for all hard copy leave and earnings statements. This does not apply to electronic copies of statements found on myPay, the online system for access and control of customers' personal pay information (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).

Reports of identity theft have substantially increased in recent years, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which monitors the issue.

Five years ago, the number of complaints to the FTC was roughly 23,400. By 2001, the rate had more than tripled to about 86,200. Based on figures released in January 2004, the number of complaints of identity theft nearly topped 215,000 for 2003. The Social Security Administration also has taken the same step of eliminating the first five social security numbers on the millions of checks it issues.

For more information about the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, visit [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).



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